DAMAGE TO CROPS BY PESTS—PREVENTION OF

166. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have seen the Inspection Report of the Alur Acqueduct and the lands irrigated by it by the Chief Engineer on November 12, 1941;

(*b*) whether the Government have noted the hint of the Chief Engineer in the Report that there are "indications of damage by pests" and in this aspect, inviting the Department of Agriculture to take the necessary "effective action" in the affair;

(*c*) whether the Chief Engineer has referred that pests have already begun to affect about 1/3 of the field;

(*d*) if so, what urgent steps are taken by the Government to save crops?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The paddy pest referred to is the rice bug. At present the attack is not very serious. The method of hand-netting in the presence of the land owners near the Alur Acqueduct was demonstrated.

VOLUME OF TRADE—PORT OF COCHIN AND MATTANCHERI

167. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Will the Government be pleased to state the volume and value, if possible, of trade that passed through the Port of Cochin or Mattancheri, in the years 1938—39, 1939—40 and 1940—41, as per statistics of (1) sea-borne trade according to the customs collected in the Port of Cochin; (2) according to the imports and exports from the Harbour as per statistics of landing and shipping in the Port; (3) as per Railway records of goods that arrived and were despatched from the Out-Agency, Mattancheri, Harbour Terminus and Ernakulam Goods Station; (4) as given in the Administration Reports of the Harbour by the Administrative Officer and Harbour Engineer-in-Chief of the Cochin Harbour?

Rao Sahib K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* A statement showing the imports and exports at the Port of Cochin for the years 1938—39, 1939—40 and 1940—41 as per statistics collected by the Port Authorities is appended *(Appendix I)*. Government do not consider it necessary or expedient to give any further particulars.

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